

RANDY LAVERTY

SENATOR
2ND DISTRICT
OFFICE: 870-446-5005

POST OFFICE BOX 303
JASPER, ARKANSAS 72641-0303



**THE SENATE
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October 13, 2009

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Broadband Industry Practices (WC Docket No. 07-52)

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

I hope, like me, you share the President's stated goal of making broadband Internet service available to everyone – even in the most remote corners of the nation. As you study whether to impose net neutrality regulations on Internet companies, I urge you to consider their effect on rural communities. I am a State Senator for one of the most beautiful and rural areas in the Arkansas Ozarks. The largest town in my county has less than 500 residents, and I say this to emphasize that I understand and share your concern for rural Americans.

In recent years, we have seen tremendous activity by a number of communication firms that offer wireless and broadband services across Arkansas. Staying connected is a priority today and advanced communications makes it easier. I believe the large growth of the communications industry has been due to the small role regulation has played. I have witnessed one cell tower after another going up across the state and in my hometown, while high-speed Internet service has become increasingly available. The Internet is a boon to our schools and to a number of local businesses and entrepreneurs. We look forward to more investment and services, but my community is substantially less remote now, thanks to the Internet.

Senator Randy Lavery
Federal Communications Commission
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Given these facts, I urge you to act thoughtfully so the wireless and Internet industry remains free to compete, prosper and expand until it reaches every American home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Randy Lavery". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Randy Lavery
State Senator
District 2

RL:lr